

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SECURITY INFORMATION

FINAL REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON FOREIGN LANGUAGE
DOCUMENTS TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON REQUIREMENTS AND FACILITIES
FOR COLLATION OF THE ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

I. THE PROBLEM

The Subcommittee on Requirements and Facilities for Collation of the Economic Intelligence Committee has charged the Working Group on Foreign Language Documents as follows:

"The fundamental task of this Working Group is to determine and recommend the treatment, operations, procedures and end product which will make foreign language documents of maximum value to analysts engaged in economic intelligence research."

"In approaching this task, the Working Group should not restrict itself to a consideration of existing operations or activities regarding foreign language documents, but should survey the entire problem. Final working group recommendations as to operations and procedures should be based upon and logically flow from a determination and definition of the type of operation or service which economic research analysts find most valuable in their work."

In dealing with the problem as outlined by the Subcommittee, it became immediately apparent that the line of demarcation in the utilization of foreign documents for economic intelligence research and other intelligence research activities should not be defined, inasmuch as the procedure for the utilization of foreign documents for intelligence purposes, whether economic, military, political, or any other purpose, is fundamentally the same. The Working Group, therefore, feels that its recommendations and discussion may be applied to all fields of intelligence document utilization with a minimum amount of modification.

From the charge laid down by the Subcommittee, the Working Group concluded that it was to place itself in the position of the ultimate consumer -- that is, to recommend measures which would place before the research analyst materials of informational value in the production of intelligence which originally appeared in a foreign language. The present facilities for accomplishing this purpose have not been altogether satisfactory.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

25X1

3. Secondary sources are often translated to the neglect of basic primary sources, and the translations are, in certain cases, unnecessarily duplicative. Lack of specific subject competence on the part of translators sometimes results in inadequate translations and failure to meet completely the requirements of intelligence end-users.

4. Critical gaps in our intelligence data can be filled, as it has been demonstrated, by a well-directed and expanded translation service made responsive to the requirements of the end-user. In some areas of research a serious shortcoming has been the failure to provide for the systematic translation of such basic intelligence materials as laws, regulations, major doctrinal materials, policy statements, encyclopedias, statistical compilations, and similar reference and research tools. In other areas basic research translation programs have been initiated without reference to the intelligence responsibilities and activities of the other IAC agencies with resulting waste of money, effort and resources.

5. Although timeliness is of the utmost importance in the case of current material, present facilities do not provide timely flow of current information

25X1

25X1

6. Moreover, despite the critical shortage of translators in several languages of the areas in which our intelligence responsibilities are increasing and will continue to increase, little attention has been paid to the problem of recruiting and training translators, either in terms of the specific task of translating for intelligence purposes or in terms of meeting estimated future needs.

There is no one place among the IAC agencies where these and related problems can be jointly presented and where jointly planned, integrated, and coordinated solutions can be formulated. The Working Group, therefore, construes that its duty is to present to the Subcommittee a general plan for the establishment of facilities which can adequately answer the

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-3-

requirements of the intelligence analyst. The Working Group has borne in mind at all times the present facilities for handling the various stages of procuring and processing documents of information value for the production of intelligence without attempting to reconsider these facilities or to criticize the organic or functional processes which they perform.

25X1

25X1

Approved For Release 2005/04/21 : CIA-RDP68-00069A000200010003-3

Approved For Release 2005/04/21 : CIA-RDP68-00069A000200010003-3

CONFIDENTIAL

-4-

a. Abstracting: Selected documents should be abstracted in accordance with specified intelligence research needs as determined jointly by the intelligence producing agencies. These abstracts or summaries in English would then be distributed to each interested IAC agency. When an abstract or summary reaches the analyst and he determines a further interest in the document, he may contact the abstracting service directly. The analyst and the abstracting service would jointly review the document to ascertain what additional information needs can be met from the document and in what form this information can best be supplied -- that is, oral statement by the linguist, supplementary abstract, brief summary, or partial or complete translation. This procedure will obviate the time-consuming translating (verbatim translation) activity which often results when translations are initiated blindly without knowledge of the contents or without specific reference to particular intelligence problems.

b. Translation: If partial or complete translation of a document is deemed advisable, the document would be referred to a translation unit. This unit should be so organized as to meet needs arising from the above described process and also to be responsive to requests initiated by the IAC agencies both individually and collectively. This unit would be staffed by linguists having a high degree of appropriate special qualification -- that is, technical and/or geographic as well as linguistic competency. In order to avoid undue duplication of effort, the translation unit should be kept conversant with all translations of intelligence value which have been produced or are being produced by other translation activities both governmental and private.

c. Special Annotated Bibliographies: Because of the necessity, at the initiation of extensive research projects, for a critical survey of the scope of information presently available, provision should be made for the preparation of special annotated bibliographies on the request

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-5-

Ref. Br.
of the analyst. The purpose of such bibliographies would be to bring together the primary source materials bearing on one subject, to organize the titles according to subject subdivision, to describe the contents of individual titles, and to make a critical judgment as to the value of each title. The preparation of such bibliographies requires a high level of judgment and discernment exceeding the level of competence which is normally adequate for routine library and cataloging functions.

4. Utilization of Current Materials: Of particular importance in connection with current intelligence activities is the extraction in part or in full of relevant information from newspapers, periodicals, and other sources pertaining to current conditions in foreign areas or information not available in basic sources. This desirable activity now exists and should be continued. However, measures should be taken to make this service more profitable and timely and more directly responsive to specific needs of the IAC agencies. For example, the more complete utilization of the provincial press is desirable. It is further desirable that this activity be correlated with other press monitoring and translating activities to avoid duplication of effort.

5. Digests: One of the most important research tools which should be made available to the analyst is the systematic digest of widely dispersed foreign language materials dealing with specific topics. Such digests should be comprehensive, detailed, and should be systematically organized to meet the need for which they are undertaken. These digests, furthermore, should be presented in such form that the purpose of foreign writer is clear to the reader. Editorial comment should be identified as such.

25X1

signature
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-6-

can be alleviated by the maintenance of complete microfilm files of all pertinent foreign language documents. Such a file should also make possible the recalling of any document for reproduction or rescanning in terms of new requirements at any time. From the master film, additional prints of unique documents could be made available to all interested agencies while still preserving a central microfilm library.

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

Approved For Release 2005/04/21 : CIA-RDP68-00069A000200010003-3

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2005/04/21 : CIA-RDP68-00069A000200010003-3